

## 1. ATTEND

- Participation points are available every day; no make-up work is available for these points.
- You can expect meaningful lessons every day in class; even if I'm not here (you will miss something!).
- Personal illness, personal/family emergencies, weddings, and funerals constitute excused absences. Schedule everything else outside of class time (non-emergency appointments, vacations, etc.).
- Parents/guardians should excuse absences through the attendance office within one day of your absence.
- Students who check out of class early will lose participation points.

## 2. ARRIVE ON TIME

- Be in your seat, ready to begin before the tardy bell rings.
- Tardies cost participation points and may cost further points for start-up activities missed.
- I do not offer make-up for tardies, nor do I delineate between "excused" or "unexcused" ones so save time--skip the note. (One exception: if you have a note from an Olympus faculty member, give it to me at the end of class.)
- If you do arrive late, come in, sit down, and make as little disruption as possible.

## 3. COME PREPARED

- You'll need paper, a pen or pencil, and any book assigned to you in class every day.
- Due dates mean an assignment is due at the beginning of class, unless otherwise noted. To avoid late penalties, have your assignments in your hand, ready for me to collect, before the bell rings
- **Begin big assignments early to avoid last-minute problems (computer glitches, empty ink cartridges, etc.).**

## 4. PARTICIPATE

- I purposefully plan a variety of assignments and readings to let each student have his or her moment. Do your best even if one assignment/story isn't your style – you may discover a new skill or a surprising literary love!
- Know that I will push your "comfort zone." Brain building, like muscle building, happens best under resistance. I am not cold-hearted, however. Talk with me if you have concerns, fears, doubts, questions! I cannot read your mind, so you must open your mouth. I promise discretion, fairness, and sincere consideration for your views. If a compromise or alternative assignment is possible, fair, and available, I'll negotiate; if not, I will offer you help and my reasoning.
- Students earn daily participation points for attendance, performance, and classroom behavior recorded in varied in-class activities and start-up activities.
- Daily participation points **cannot** be made up and do count on your grade whether an absence is excused or not.

## 5. TURN IN YOUR WORK (includes late work policy)

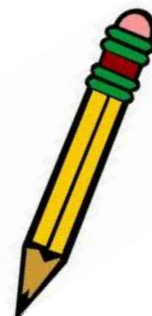
- see #3 above and #7 below
- All late work is worth 50% of the original points earned regardless of when the work comes in.
- I will accept one Teacher Incentive for mercy on a late assignment. See the details under RULES & POLICIES.
- I do not accept any other late work or offer extra assignments to compensate for work you failed to do or turn in.

## 6. TREAT OTHERS RESPECTFULLY

- I work hard and invest much into your learning experience. I expect you to listen when I am conducting class, to trust my professional experience, to try assignments before you complain or give up, to refrain from damaging materials that belong to me or to Olympus High, and to use respectful language at all times in class, including in your written correspondence with me.
- You are part of a learning community in which EVERY member deserves an opportunity to learn, to share, to feel safe, and to think for him or herself. I expect that you will treat your classmates– and yourself– with kindness, honesty, encouragement, and respect.

## 7. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF (includes make-up work policies)

- When absent (excused) on a due date for an essay or project, arrange for someone to turn yours in before or during your class period. Write a classmate's phone number down for this: \_\_\_\_\_. Otherwise, I consider your work "late."
- Students who miss a test date because of an excused absence must take the test after school the day they return.
- After an absence, please check with a classmate to find what you missed; use that phone number you just recorded as block schedule can leave you far behind if you wait two school days to find your assignment. Talk to me AFTER class or during individual work time on the day you return if you have questions.
- Any handouts given when you are absent will be filed in the box marked "Junior Honors" by the door.
- If you miss class due to an excused absence and have class work to make up (not a big assignment), please write **ABSENT** and the date on the top of the paper and give it **DIRECTLY TO ME** before class begins on the day you return to class.
- If you have an unexcused absence on a due date or test date, you will receive a zero on the assignment or test– skipping class because you're unprepared is a bad idea!



## 8. KEEP YOUR MIND OPEN

- Because this course is designed for advanced, college-bound juniors, we will read works that explore mature themes, occasionally with some mature images or language. I assure you that I never choose a piece of literature only for the purpose of shocking you, nor do I choose pieces I do not think my students are mature enough to process academically or socially (and I'm a professional, remember!). If I know a piece is controversial or strong in its imagery or language, I will tell you how, where, and why so you can make informed choices about what you'll read/see and offer you suggestions and guidance too.
- Some discomfort and opposition is good for learning, but if you are ever extremely uncomfortable or feel your values are being compromised without having the opportunity to choose for yourself, speak to me. That is not my intent. I am well-practiced with and well-aware of the nature of adolescence; I am informed and respectful of our cultural environment; I am reasonable and generally nice.
- You will not like every assignment we do, every book we read, every opinion I hold, or every belief or idea your classmates express. Opposition is a brain workout, remember? **THE MOST IMPORTANT IDEAS TO LISTEN TO CAREFULLY ARE THOSE WITH WHICH YOU DO NOT AGREE. YOU'LL FIND VALIDATION (more reasons, more conviction in your own ideas) OR YOU'LL FIND YOUR OWN IDEAS NEED REVISION.** Either way, that, my friends, is LEARNING! Listening only to people who agree with you is academic atrophy.

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### Grading Scale:

A: 95% and up	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	D: 61-65
A-: 90-94	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 57-60
B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 65-69	F: 0-57

### RULES & POLICIES

#### ASSIGNMENT CATEGORIES:

Projects and Major Writing Assignments = 35% of your grade  
General Class Work and Homework = 20%

Exams and In-Class Writing = 30%  
Participation Scores = 15%

**NOTE:** I assign final citizenship grades according to district attendance policy (see your Ti-Book or talk to me for details) and class behavior (see expectations below). **No grades, citizenship or academic, will be changed after the end of each quarter** (excepting RARE! instances of teacher error ☺, or individual arrangements made with Ms. Bishop BEFORE the quarter ends)

**Extra Credit Options:** Each student will receive TWO HALL PASSES which you may surrender to leave class. You receive NO PENALTY for using these two hall passes. However, if you have not used one or both of them at the end of the quarter, I will award TEN EXTRA CREDIT POINTS to you FOR EACH UNUSED HALL PASS.

These twenty possible extra credit points are the only extra credit options, but they can make a marked difference on your grade. I use these points INSTEAD of "rounding up" grade percentages.

**Titan Way Teacher Incentives:** Staple a valid teacher incentive to late work for forgiveness! This means you can still receive full credit on the assignment PLUS you can turn it in on any day of the quarter. The incentive must be valid and belong to you! I will accept only ONE INCENTIVE PER STUDENT PER QUARTER.

### Class Rules:

(VIOLATION = LOST DAILY PARTICIPATION POINTS, CONSISTENT VIOLATION = WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS)

1. Listen politely and with an open mind to me and to other students;
2. Respond with courtesy, fairness, and intelligence;
3. Use polite, respectful language;
4. Speak to me when you have concerns or questions;
5. Remain seated and engaged in work for our class throughout the class period (no lining up at the door!);
6. Adhere to simple, common courtesy rules;
7. Turn off and store all electronic devices (cell phones/pagers, headsets, calculators, MP3 players, I-Pods, etc.) in your lockers or bags. Violation will result in loss of participation points and immediate confiscation of the item, which will be turned in to the front office;
8. Work only on our class work, not other homework, makeup, notes for friends, etc.;
9. Keep your head off of your desks (sleeping through other people's work is rude);
10. Dress appropriately for the classroom (please see the school dress code);
11. Respect the belongings of others, including the desks, my bulletin boards, etc.;
12. Do your work honestly, never plagiarizing others' work– including that on homework and other Internet websites–in part or whole; and do your personal best in every aspect of the course.

